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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re application of:

Uwe HEITMANN

Appl. No. 09/657,812

Filed: September 8, 2000

For: ARRANGEMENT FOR
REDUCING THE NOISE LEVEL
OF TOBACCO-PROCESSING
PRODUCTION MACHINES

Art Unit: 1731

Examiner: Carlos N. Lopez

Atty. Docket No. 31653-165337 RK

Customer No.



26694

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Honorable Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to the requirement for restriction in the Office Action mailed on May 17, 2002, Applicant hereby elects Species A, claims 1-7. Further examination of these claims is respectfully requested.

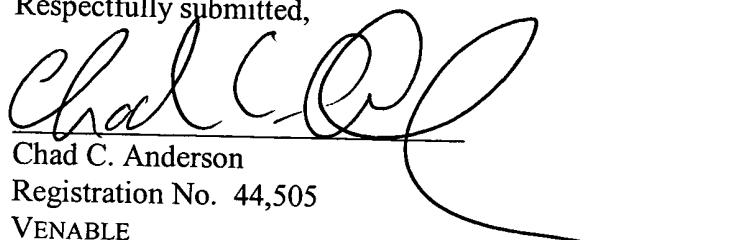
It is pointed out that each of claims 1-12 are directed to a production machine with includes reflection surfaces covered with damping material. The carriage recited in claims 8 and 9, the door recited in claims 10 and 11, and the window recited in claim 12 are all part of the production machine recited in claims 1-7. Accordingly, the examination of claims 1-12 is respectfully requested.

It is also pointed out that the Action fails to provide the particular reasons relied upon for holding that the inventions as claimed are either independent or distinct. MPEP §816 requires such an explanation and additionally states that a mere conclusion of distinctiveness is inadequate. (see-

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also, MPEP §817). For this reason, it is respectfully submitted that the present restriction requirement is incomplete under Patent Office procedure and should be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: June 17, 2002

RK/CCA/trt

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